

Date: Sat, 21 May 94 04:30:09 PDT  
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>  
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu  
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu  
Precedence: Bulk  
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V94 #553  
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest                      Sat, 21 May 94                      Volume 94 : Issue 553

Today's Topics:

What does HAM mean ?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>  
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>  
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available  
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text  
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official  
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

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Date: Fri, 20 May 1994 18:01:28 GMT  
From: newsgate.melpar.esys.com!melpar!phb@uunet.uu.net  
Subject: What does HAM mean ?  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

srogers@uqac.quebec.ca (Suzanne Rogers) writes:

>What does HAM stand for?

>Wild guesses:

>=====

>- Healthy AMateur enthousiasts ?  
>- Home (to the) AM band ?  
>- Hail (to the) Almighty Meter (bands) ?  
>- Hang (in) And Monitor ?  
>- How (to) Air (your) Mouthpiece ?

>What ?

No one knows, not even ARRL. It isn't an acronym as far as  
anyone can determine from history back to 1900. The only

suggested origin I've ever heard is that some British radio enthusiasts started using the term "am" as short for "amateur" (i.e., "My neighbor is a radio am"). Since "Cockney" lingo drops the letter h from the front of words which begin with h (as in "I'm going 'ome now."), it has been suggested that a listener may have thought a Britisher saying "am" really meant "ham" but was dropping the h. Hence, the beginning of the term "radio ham." It may be a pretty weak argument, but traditions have begun in other pursuits from even more inauspicious origins.

DX is an internationally-recognized abbreviation for "distance" and goes back to early radiotelegraph days of ships at sea. In fact, most abbreviations used today trace their origins back at least that far, and in some cases all the way back to the days of the landline telegraph. A few were chosen from non-English languages for their brevity; for example, the use of "DE", as in WA3XYZ DE K4MSG. "DE" is French for "from", but it is shorter in terms of characters and character elements than, say, "frm" or even "fm" (with the latter running the risk of being interpreted as "frequency modulation," although admittedly FM was developed long after "DE" came into use by radio telegraphers. In CW, "DE" vs "FRM" would be -.../. versus ..-/.-./-- so it would save time. It seems a small thing, but when handling CW traffic through the static crashes on LF, using (ugh!) spark, every little bit would help.....

Vy 73,

Paul, K4MSG

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| |) \* Senior Systems Engineer \* Telephone: (703) 560-5000 x2062

"You can have my bug when you can pry my cold, dead fingers from around it....." - anonymous radiotelegraph operator

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Date: 20 May 1994 13:23:15 GMT  
From: olivea!spool.mu.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!math.ohio-state.edu!jussieu.fr!  
univ-lyon1.fr!elendir@ames.arpa  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <sddb1c6e.053@LAKEHURST.NAVY.MIL>, <2rhhnc\$pje@crcnis1.unl.edu>,  
<2ri4ov\$r0g@hpsystem1.informatik.tu-muenchen.de>univ-ly  
Subject : Re: Need help With German Repeaters

Christof A Neumann (neumann@Informatik.TU-Muenchen.DE) wrote:

: Charles is right. Almost every repeater in Germany has to be opened by  
: transmitting the 1750 Hz tone. If there are two or more repeaters in an  
: area, then they are using different frequencies.

No wonder. It's the same here in France. 1750 Hz but for the transponders,  
which are normally "transparent" - always opened. In France, repeaters also  
have a timeout (90 s), meaning that if you don't let a "K" or "T" go by,  
you are fired after the delay. I dunno about German repeaters.

Vince, F1RCS

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ENST - Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Telecommunications, Paris, France

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End of Info-Hams Digest V94 #553

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